

## “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

- ✓ **Joshua 9:1-10:15.** The sun stopped.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 10:9-18.** Paul is criticized and notes the priority of God’s judgment.
- ✓ **Psalm 50.** God is the Righteous Judge.

### COMMENTARY:

**Joshua 9:1-10:15.** In chapter nine we have the treaty with the Gibeonites. In chapter 10 we are told that the sun stood still. During the battle with the kings of the land, God gave Israel the power to overcome their enemies. As the armies of the people of the land fled from before Israel, Joshua sought the Lord to cause the sun to stand still so that they might have sufficient daylight to complete the destruction of their enemies. But how could the sun stand still in the midst of the heaven for a whole day? First, it is not necessary to conclude that the earth’s rotation was totally halted. Verse 13 states that the sun “did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.” This could indicate that the earth’s rotation was not completely halted, but it was retarded to such a degree that the sun did not set for about a whole day. However, even if the earth’s rotation was completely stopped, we must remember that God is not only capable of halting the rotation of the earth for a whole day, He is also able to prevent any possible catastrophic effects that might result from the cessation of the earth’s rotation. I have always found it puzzling as well as a bit amusing that the skeptics find it so difficult to think that the God who could stop the rotation of the earth was somehow unable to prevent the catastrophic results. Only by assuming naturalism will one even have a problem with this entire scenario. However, such an assumption is begging the question and asserting the very thing that is to be proven. Finally, it could be that the Bible is speaking in everyday observational language. So, the sun did not *actually* stop; it only *appeared to do so*. Do we not hear observational language every time the modern scientifically oriented weather man gives us the time of “sunrise”?

**2 Corinthians 10:9-18.** Paul is in the unenviable position of defending himself as he was criticized and compared to other “apostles” and teachers. There were rival apostles who compared themselves to Paul—with Paul coming out the loser. Among other things, Paul was judged to be a deficient speaker, in fact “his speech contemptible” (10), criticized for always vacillating between being strong and weak (11), and accused of not loving the Corinthians. Because Paul was not a skilled speaker, he probably would have a hard time in the modern churches where form, presentations, and good feelings are the priorities. In closing out this section, Paul commends himself to the Lord, not man. It is important for every believer to understand, be he an apostle, pastor, or believer in the pew, that what matters is not what people think or say. What matter is what the Lord thinks. Besides, He is the only one who the believer can really please anyway. And besides, God’s judgment is final, and will set aside every human judgment.

**Psalm 50.** This psalm extols God as the righteous judge. Note how God addresses both the righteous and the wicked. Observe the focus on the need to give thanks in verses 14-15, 22-23, and the need for true obedience in verses 16-23. While much is made out of the fact that we are to count it all joy when we face the trials of life, trials which are not sent directly by God (James 1:13), the fact is that we should be thankful and joyous in the Lord and living to obey Him whether we find ourselves in difficulties or in pleasant circumstances.

**Romans 11:36** For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don